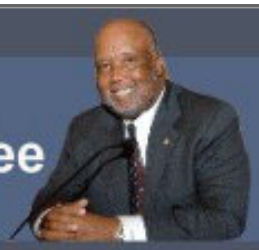
NEWS ALERT

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Homeland Security Committee

Rep. Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement of Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

Assessing Persistent and Emerging Cyber Threats to the U.S. in the Homeland

May 21, 2014 (Washington) – Today, Committee on Homeland Security Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) delivered the following prepared remarks for the joint Subcommittee hearing entitled "Assessing Persistent and Emerging Cyber Threats to the U.S. in the Homeland"

"This hearing is timed only days after the Department of Justice announced indictments against five Chinese military officials for conducting cyber espionage against U.S. industries related to nuclear power and solar and metal products. I understand the investigative role of the FBI in this investigation and that our judicial process limits the information which can be shared at such a critical point in this process. Therefore, I look forward to working with all of our witnesses to discuss and review this case at the appropriate time.

During this Congress and in previous Congresses, I have maintained and expanded this committee's cyber security jurisdiction by conducting effective oversight and offering both responsive and responsible legislation. I continue to be encouraged as DHS assumes its role as the primary agency charged with securing federal government systems from cyber attacks, while working with other agencies to collect information, analyze threats, and respond accordingly. It is important for DHS to continue to make progress in addressing one of the greatest homeland security challenges of our day—how to help government agencies and private sector infrastructure owners and operators protect critical infrastructure from cyber threats.

Too often when we discuss cyber threats or cyber security, we group all bad actors into the same category. Today, our witnesses should explain not only the ongoing threats, but also distinguish the threat actors. Specifically, I am interested in hearing about the organized crime groups and their efforts to target financial service sectors, terrorist groups' use of online networks to recruit and organize attack efforts, and foreign governments with an interest in obtaining data and information from government agencies and major manufacturers, including those with defense contracts.

I would also like to hear how the witnesses and their agencies manage and analyze the volumes of open source information and postings that can be found on various social networking websites. I have gone on record several times to emphasize social media as an integral tool in recognizing and preventing emerging threats, but warning that a balance must be created to manage this information. We must still heed that warning and make our federal security regime as effective as possible."

# # #

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please contact Adam Comis at (202) 225-9978

United States House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
H2-117, Ford House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 226-2616 | Fax: (202) 226-4499
http://chsdemocrats.house.gov